Restructuring entry to railway platforms

2371. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a plan has been formulated to restrict access to railway platforms, like the airports, by allowing entry only to *bonafide* passengers and banning entry of non-passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of its implementation;

(c) the steps taken to augment the rail-specific infrastructure/facilities needed by an un-accompanied average train passenger; and

(d) the details of steps taken to address the concerns and needs of senior citizens, single women travellers and certain other categories of passengers who generally bank upon relatives or friends at both boarding and disembarking points?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) The Standing Committee on Railways in their 21st Report (2005-06) on Terminal Facilities in metropolitan cities has recommended that only genuine passengers with the restricted number of accompanying persons should be allowed at the platforms as is being done in the case of airports. Efforts are being made to have consensus view on this subject. Therefore, no formal decision on this recommendation has yet been taken.

Rail Land Development Authority

2372. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted Rail Land Development Authority to develop railway land at various places in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to develop railway land to generate

additional revenues for improving passenger amenities and safety on the railways;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of railways land that is proposed to be developed on the ECoR Rail system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to give greater thrust to commercial utilization of railway land/air-space, it has been decided to set up a separate Authority namely the railway Land Development Authority (RLDA), to undertake all tasks related to property development on railway land under the control of Ministry of Railways. Amendment to the Railways Act, 1989 as approved by Parliament has been notified in the Gazette of India on 16.9.2005 after President's assent.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The funds so generated will be ploughed back to Railway's developmental works including passenger amenities & safety on need basis.

(e) East Coast Railway has presently identified Tetichetlapalem and Chavulamadum in Visakhapatnam for commercial development.

New railway line between new Jalpaigudi and Gangtok

2373. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has conducted any survey to construct a new railway line between New Jalpaigudi to Gangtok;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by when the above construction work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a survey has been conducted in 2000-01 for Sivok-Singtam new line *via* Giellikhola. The cost of construction of this 60 kms. long line was assessed as Rs. 1099 crore